

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claim 1 is allowable. The restriction requirement as set forth in the Office action mailed on 02/28/2007, is withdrawn and all original claims rejoined.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the applicants arguments in the last paragraph of page 6 to the first paragraph of page 7 of the appeal brief, the last paragraph of page 7 to the first paragraph of page 8 of the appeal brief, and second paragraph of page 9 of the appeal brief are found persuasive with regards to the combination of the previously used references and the allowability of the claim over the references.

Regarding claims 2-31 (now renumbered 2, 3, 5, 4, and 6-31), these claims depend on claim 1 and therefore are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NICHOLAS G. GILES whose telephone number is

(571)272-2824. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David L. Ometz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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